

QUESTION RE SATAN'S ACCESS TO HEAVEN
Taught by Willis E. Bishop

From Study in Ezekiel

When the six days of creation were completed, there is a verse at the close of Genesis chapter 2 which says, "God saw all that He had done and behold it was exceedingly good." At that point God had created all His heavenly creatures, and Satan had not yet fallen, and I believe he was acting in a guardianship capacity, perhaps over the holiness of God, or something of that sort. I wish we had more information. I don't want to speak where God hasn't spoken, but at least from these words I gather that to be true.

Then sometime after the sixth day of creation Satan fell. Paul, in I Timothy, says it was because of pride. Ezekiel says, "You were lifted up because of your beauty and because of the unrighteousness of your trading" in verse 18. So sometime after the sixth day of creation Satan fell, and then he appeared in the Garden of Eden to tempt Adam and Eve.

Since then, at least I believe, Satan does not have access to heaven. In Job chapter 1 he came with the sons of God and appeared before the Lord, but I do not believe that was in heaven. I believe the sons of God were believers and were in a meeting. Job was there, and it was then that Satan taunted God concerning the person of Job. (Apparently God and Satan were invisible to the believers.) In Revelation 4 there is a throne of God that is set or placed or put. God has different places where He carries on His business, as I see it. Therefore, Job chapter 1 would have occurred in a different place than Heaven. I would be very disappointed if the Lord called me home today and I could see Satan walking down the street.

Q. It says he is the accuser of the brethern.

A. Right. He has access to God, but I don't believe it is in Heaven. Satan is called the prince of the power of the air. And there are three heavens -- one in which the birds fly, one is the starry heavens, and the third one is God's heaven. Though Satan must report to God I believe he doesn't report to Him in Heaven. Since God is everywhere there is no problem here.

Q. Re the gathering of the sons of God in Job, wasn't that Heaven?

A. I don't think so. Turn to Job 1:6: "Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came among them also." Your question is where does that take place. When we read in Job 38 concerning "the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy," there the term "sons of God" is definitely used of angels. There is a difference in the Hebrew construction in Job 1:6, and here I am speaking from memory. One has the definite article and one does not, so that in Job 38 it is talking about angels, but in Job

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chapter 1, I feel, it is talking about believers on earth. They presented themselves before the Lord. This is what is said in the Genesis account where Cain and Abel came and presented themselves before the Lord, here on earth.

So the meeting in Job 1 is of believers presenting themselves before the Lord, and the Lord was there. Satan came also and the Lord asked him where he came from, to which he replied, "From going to and fro in the earth and walking back and forth." Then God asked the question about Job. Here again it is a matter of opinion. When we are in a church service where the gospel is preached are we not in a special way coming into the presence of God? We come to present ourselves before the Lord. Without being dogmatic, this is the way I evaluate Job chapter 1. I don't believe Satan has access to Heaven.

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